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ON TAP

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Being Thankful: A TCWD Perspective

With Thanksgiving behind us and January 1, 2009 looming just days away, this is the last *On Tap* for 2008. As with most years, 2008 seems to have “flown by.” It has also been a year of opportunities and challenges. So, has 2008 been a “half full glass of water” year? Or a “half empty glass of water year?”

From a TCWD perspective, it has been a “half full glass of water year!” Here are four thoughts regarding this:

1) We have had lots of information about the drought and the need for water conservation. Perhaps we are all weary of hearing and reading about it. The good news regarding this is really simple; the need to conserve water and any pending water shortage is not going to be a surprise to us! We have had time to plan, modify our water use inside the house, and consider what steps we could take outside the house, all in the interest of conserving water.

This is certainly better information than we had a few years ago when there was an electrical energy supply problem. Or,

even a few months ago when gas prices soared through the roof.

So, all things considered, being informed about water conservation and being able to plan to use less water is a good thing, even if having less water is not really what we want.

2) The District’s infrastructure and equipment are in very good condition. The facilities and operation of the District can be confusing to the uninitiated. While the number of customers it serves is relatively small compared to other special districts or larger cities, TCWD’s systems are complex when compared to most others.

A) TCWD treats water at its own water treatment plant, distributes potable (drinking) water throughout a very large geographic area with very challenging elevations and terrain. B) TCWD collects and treats sewage for a majority of the District’s population (operating its own wastewater treatment plant). C) TCWD uses 100% of the reclaimed water produced from the sewage treatment in a relatively complex reclaimed water

distribution system. D) TCWD has a complex system for

capturing dry season water (irrigation overflow) and storm flow for use in its Reclaimed Water Distribution System.

3. TCWD is fortunate to have a very sophisticated and very diverse customer base. The District's customer base ranges from rural canyon communities to large communities behind guarded gates, each having its own challenging elevations and service connections.

Frequently, the District receives comments and suggestions from its customers that are helpful to the District. TCWD's customers are good about asking questions that promote wise water use.

And perhaps equally important, the District's customers are the District's best eyes and ears when it comes to early information about line breaks, damaged equipment, or suspicious activity at or near District property or equipment.

4. The District's workforce is highly trained and extremely dedicated to making TCWD the best water district possible. Previous issues of *On Tap* have explained the complexity of the District's water and sewer systems. The District is fortunate to have such a highly trained workforce of system operators and maintenance technicians who regularly work well as a team.

As we move into the year of 2009, these simple reminders are things we have to be thankful for, and know the water challenges of the future will receive our

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best efforts. The glass is half full of water.

A reminder, if you pay your utility billings through your bank and designate the due date of your water bill as the date for payment, you might be risking a late fee. This is due to the fact that the bank's payment process may delay the payment to the District until after the due date. If this occurs, the payment will be considered late even though the funds have been removed from your account on the due date.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ **November 19, 2008 – Directed staff to notice a Public Hearing related to an Ordinance Adopting a Mandatory Water Conservation Plan.**
- ◇ **Adopted a Resolution relating to the Public Employees' Retirement System**
- ◇ **Approved the Sub Area Master Plan for the Toro Plaza development.**
- ◇ **Received information relating to financial assumptions and water rates.**
- ◇ **Received and filed the audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2008.**
- ◇ **Received status updates relating to the Baker Regional Water Treatment Plant and Rose Canyon and Lang Wells Upgrades to Treatment Facilities.**
- ◇ **Conducted a Closed Session**

ON TAP is published and distributed by TCWD. We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Sharon E. Smith, Editor

TCWD's *ON-TAP*

Trabuco Canyon Water District

32003 Dove Canyon Drive

Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679

(949) 858-0277 (Telephone) 858-3025 (Facsimile)

